

# Project: CENSORED

THE STORIES THE MEDIA CHOOSE TO IGNORE  
- ARE THE STORIES YOU NEED TO KNOW...

# 1989

## TOP 10 CENSORED STORIES FOR 1989

### 1. Global Media Lords Threaten Freedom of Information.

Five major media corporations already dominate the fight for hundreds of millions of minds throughout the world and they concede that before the turn of the century they may control most of the world's important newspapers, magazines, books, broadcast stations, movies, recordings and video cassettes.

### 2. Turning Africa Into the World's Garbage Can.

Africa, already suffering from poverty, drought, famine, locusts, "contra" wars, and the AIDS epidemic, appears destined to become the world's toxic waste dump as international sludge dealers try to dump U.S. and European waste onto at least 15 African countries.

### 3. The Holocaust in Mozambique.

A U.S. State Department official has called the attacks by the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) "one of the most brutal holocausts against ordinary human beings since World War II." More than one million, mostly innocent men, women, and children have already died. RENAMO is reported to be funded by South African sources and conservative, right-wing groups in the United States and Europe.

### 4. America's Deceitful War on Drugs.

The government's war on drugs is more hype than reality. One of the nation's top narcotics prosecutors quit in frustration last year after State Department officials interfered in his investigations of top people in the cocaine business. A Senate subcommittee revealed that foreign policy interests sidetracked, disrupted and undercut the "war on drugs."

### 5. Guatemalan Blood on U.S. Hands.

The Bush administration strengthened ties with the oppressive Guatemalan military last year at the same time that human rights violations by the military rose sharply. One unpublicized violation occurred last year when a U.S. citizen, Sister Diana Ortiz, working as a teacher in Guatemala, was kidnapped, beaten, tortured, and sexually molested by three men, one of whom was a uniformed Guatemalan police officer. The U.S. Department of State didn't register a protest.

### 6. Radioactive Waste In the Neighborhood Landfill.

Radioactive waste may be joining old tires, banana peels, and other regular garbage at the local landfill if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the nuclear industry implement their little-known plan to deregulate radioactive waste to "Below Regulatory Concern."

### 7. Oliver North & Co. Banned from Costa Rica.

In 1989, Oliver North, former National Security Advisor John Poindexter, former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Lewis Tambs, Major General Richard Secord, and former CIA station chief in Costa Rica Joseph Fernandez were barred by President Oscar Arias from ever setting foot in Costa Rica again. A Costa Rican congressional commission concluded that the contra re-supply network in Costa

Rica, which North co-ordinated from the White House, doubled as a drug smuggling operation.

### 8. Wall Street Journal Censors Story of CBS Bias.

The Wall Street Journal, censored a major story by one of its top reporters, Mary Williams Walsh, which exposed how one of the nation's most respected TV news departments, CBS News, broadcast biased news coverage of the Afghanistan war to the American people.

### 9. PCBs and Toxic Waste In Your Gasoline.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, the EPA, and the FBI are investigating sophisticated "waste laundering" schemes in which hazardous toxic wastes and solvents, including PCBs, are mixed with gasoline and diesel and industrial fuel and sold to consumers.

### 10. The Chicken Industry and the National Salmonella Epidemic.

The chicken industry's drive for profits, aided by relaxed inspection practices by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has led to a national epidemic of 2.5 million cases of salmonella poisoning a year, 500,000 hospitalizations, and 9,000 deaths.

## The other 15 under- reported stories of 1989 were:

- *How the Federal Emergency Management Agency Failed the Nation;*
- *The Secret Pan Am 103 Report the Media Ignored;*
- *The U.S. is Poisoning the Rest of the*

- World with Banned Pesticides;*
- *The U.S. Presence is Destroying the Environment in Central America;*
  - *Media Reliance On Conservative Sources Debunk Myth of Liberal Bias;*
  - *Faulty Computers Can Trigger World War III;*
  - *RICO and SLAPP Lawsuits Endanger Free Speech Rights;*
  - *NASA Lied To Get Plutonium Payload Into Space;*
  - *U.S. Congress Ignored Soviet Plea for Nuclear Test Ban;*
  - *The Oppression and Exploitation of Native Americans;*
  - *How the U.S. and the Media Propagandized the War on Drugs;*
  - *The Profitable Revolving Employment Door Between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Polluters;*
  - *Sellafield: The Largest Source of Radioactive Contamination in the World;*
  - *The National Parks are in Serious Trouble;*
  - *The Plaintive Case for Animal Rights.*

# 1990

## TOP 10 CENSORED STORIES FOR 1990

### 1. Flawed coverage of the Gulf Crisis.

Traditional press skepticism was the first casualty in the days immediately following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The media, concerned about appearing to be unpatriotic, fell into the unseemly role of Pentagon cheerleaders for the administration. Even the Defense Department spokesman, Pete Williams, admitted that "the reporting has been largely a recitation of what administration people have said."

### 2. S&L solution is worse than the crime.

The \$500 billion, estimated to be needed to bail out the savings and loan industry, is more than the entire cost of World War II, in current dollars and including service-connected veterans' benefits. The

Resolution Trust Corporation, the Federal agency entrusted with solving the problem, is now accused of producing a massive giveaway that will make Teapot Dome look like a demitasse cup.

### 3. The C.I.A. role in the S&L crisis.

The question of what happened to the billions of S&L funds is partially answered by an investigative journalist who found links between S&L's, organized crime figures and C.I.A. operatives, including some involved in gun running, drug smuggling, money laundering and covert aid to Nicaraguan contras.

### 4. NASA shuttle destroys the ozone shield.

Dr. Helen Caldicott, world renowned physician and environmentalist, warns that every time the space shuttle is launched, 250 tons of hydrochloric acid is released into the air, contributing to the destruction of the ozone layer.

### 5. Media blackout of drug war fraud.

A top-ranked undercover agent, recently retired from the Drug Enforcement Administration, reports that the administration's widely-touted "drug war" is really a "psychological war, aimed at convincing America through the press that our government is seriously trying to deal with the drug problem when they're not."

### 6. What really happened in Panama?

New reports from non-mainstream but authoritative sources reveal that the legal foundations for the Panama invasion, the Bush-Noriega relationship, the actual American and Panamanian casualty figures and the post-invasion conditions in Panama have been misrepresented to the American people.

### 7. The Pentagon's secret billion-dollar black budget.

An investigation by a Pulitzer-Prize-winning investigative journalist exposed the Pentagon's secret "Black Budget," which was once used to fund America's 11 intelligence agencies, but is now being used by the administration and the military to conceal the costs of many of their most expensive and controversial military weapons.

### 8. The Bill of Rights had a close call.

The mass media failed to tell the public about the potential repressive impact of the

Gramm-Gingrich anti-crime bill introduced in both the U.S. Senate and the House in 1990. The bill called for "A Declaration of National Drug and Crime Emergency," which critics say would have essentially nullified the Bill of Rights had it passed through Congress.

### 9. Where was George?

Despite repeated assertions by President George Bush that he was "out of the loop," new material from Oliver North's diaries, obtained through a Freedom of Information lawsuit, provided additional information that President Bush played a major role in the Iran-contra scandal from the beginning.

### 10. America's banking crisis.

Top economists report that the same economic conditions that led to the demise of the savings and loan industry are now eating away at our commercial banks and that the same kinds of accounting gimmicks that hid the S&L crisis are being used to cover up the commercial banking crisis.

## The other 15 under-reported stories of 1990 were:

- *Conflict of interest over North's acquittal.*
- *The chemical industry and its cocaine connection.*
- *The big banks' role in laundering drug money.*
- *The U.S. military's toxic legacy to America.*
- *Media's VDT radiation stories that still don't make the news.*
- *Bush-Mosbacher-Baker and their lucrative leaking oil barge business.*
- *The America Library Association's fight against government secrecy.*
- *The national media ignore C.I.A. misdeeds.*
- *There was no massacre in Tiananmen square.*
- *Does the medical establishment suppress alternative cancer treatments?*
- *The United States and our global dumping grounds.*
- *Malathion: death from the skies.*
- *The C.I.A., the La Penca bombing and a murder indictment.*
- *The return of electroshock: the "new, improved" psychiatric therapy.*
- *The Congressional intelligence authorization act that would subvert the constitution.*

## MORE CENSORED STORIES

Marking its 15-month anniversary, **WORLD PERSPECTIVES** magazine has also released its list of the Ten Most Censored Stories of the last 12 months.

- **THE GULF WAR**, which perhaps received the least media coverage of any war in the history of mass communications.
- **THE SITUATION IN PANAMA** where the effects of the US invasion almost 1½ years ago are still present and where allegations of high-ranking drug trafficking and corruption continue.
- **CIA KIDNAPPING OF HUNDREDS OF LIBYAN POW'S** from Chad in December 1990.
- **CIA LINKS TO RECENTLY EXPOSED EUROPEAN SECRET PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS**, started in the 50's by the US and NATO.
- **THE NUCLEAR ISSUE**, both at home and abroad.
- **THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN WORLDWIDE**, 40,000 of whom die daily of preventable causes.
- **ISRAEL'S INVOLVEMENT IN WEAPONS TRAFFICKING TO COLOMBIAN DRUG LORDS** and the alleged involvement of a former Israeli general in the assassination of presidential candidate Carlos Galan.
- **EL SALVADOR'S FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS** and the continuing repression in that country.
- **EVENTS IN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS**; Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.
- **THE WAR ON DRUGS** and its hidden agendas.

## PROJECT CENSORED IN AUSTRALIA?

It has been suggested that we Australians have our own version of Project Censored.

Nexus is now open for nominations, send details of what you think is or are the most media ignored (or even suppressed) stories of the year.

Send to: Nexus Magazine, c/- Post Office, Mapleton. Qld. 4560.

## HOW THE TOP TEN UNDER-REPORTED STORIES WERE CHOSEN

The panel of judges who selected the top ten under-reported news stories: Dr. Dona Allen, founding editor of *Media Report to Women*; Ben Bagdikian, professor emeritus, graduate school of journalism, University of California at Berkeley; Richard Barnet, Institute for Policy Studies; Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics and philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. George Gerbner, professor, Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania; Nicholas Johnson, professor, College of Law, University of Iowa; Rhoda H. Karpatkin, executive director, Consumer's Union; Charles L. Klotzer, editor and publisher,

St. Louis Journalism Review; Judith Krug, director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association; Frances Moore Lappe', founder and co-director, Institute for the Arts of Democracy; John McLaughlin, executive producer, Oliver Productions Inc.; Bill Moyers, executive editor, Public Affairs Television, Inc.; Jack L. Nelson, professor, graduate school of education, Rutgers University; Herbert I. Schiller, professor emeritus of communication, University of California, San Diego; and Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld, president, D.C. Productions.

Prof. Carl Jensen, who created Project Censored in 1976, said "This media research project has been called an 'early warning system' for the nation.

The number of military and financial and economic issues that were under-reported in 1990 surely provided an ominous warning of what the United States could expect in 1991."

Anyone interested in nominating a "censored" story of 1991 can send a copy of the story to Carl Jensen, Project Censored, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California 94928. Deadline for nominations is Nov. 1, 1991.

